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TS # 63362 (Copy 2 of 3)

31 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Advice of Admiral Souers Regarding Mr. Gray's Letter of 25 March 1952.

1. Pursuant to the recommendation of Mr. Dulles, I took up with Admiral Souers today the question of what to do about the request contained in Mr. Gray's letter of 25 March, viz., that we point out to him the errors and language faults which we considered to be contained in his report to the President on the Psychological Strategy Board. At the outset of the conversation I explained that we were aware of the fact that this was a delicate and sensitive matter and that the President had some fairly clear-cut viewpoints which we were anxious to conform to in every way. Accordingly, we were requesting Admiral Souers' advice with respect to this matter before replying to Mr. Gray.

2. Admiral Souers advised me that he thought it would be inappropriate and unnecessary for us to sit down with Mr. Gray and go over the portions of his report to which exception had been taken here. He said that the President's reasoning on this was that the President had no objection whatever to any of the language or expressions contained in Mr. Gray's report. He feels that Mr. Gray was reporting to him and that Mr. Gray should have said exactly what he felt in his report. The only reason why the question of language changes or deletions had ever arisen was within the context of the possibility that the report might be published. Since the President had concluded that the report should not be published and had so advised Mr. Gray, any question of language changes has become completely academic. Admiral Souers concluded this portion of his advice with a recommendation that I speak to Gordon along the foregoing lines being careful to point out that the President has no objection to the report as written nor to any part of the language contained therein.

3. Admiral Souers stated that he had been most favorably impressed with the report of the ad hoc committee to the Board, as he felt that this was both sound and objective - entirely free from slants and biases. He had been strongly influenced in his own recommendations to the President by this report.

4. Concerning the question of classification of the report, Admiral Souers said that he thought we should either collect all outstanding copies of the report or should be sure that the people who retain these understand that although the report is not classified, it should be handled with the greatest of care since it represents a confidential communication to the President which the President has determined

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should not be published. Admiral Sowers further stated that he felt confident that Mr. Gray would not publish the report because, in the first place, he is not the kind of person who would take advantage of a situation such as this, and, secondly, because the President has told Mr. Gray in his letter that he considers it inadvisable to publish the report.

(Signed) FRANK G. WISNER

FRANK G. WISNER

cc: DDCI 

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